

A JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

Vol. I No. 7 Address communications to J. L. Clifford
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Penna.

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18th CENTURY LUNCHEON

Preparations have been completed for the 18th century luncheon to be held during the meetings in Indianapolis. The time is 12:45, Monday, Dec. 29. The place is "The Canary Cottage", a pleasant restaurant on the Circle, only a short distance from headquarters. The price is 85¢ for a full course luncheon.

Nancy Moore (Butler), who has been kind enough to make the local arrangements, writes that "The Canary Cottage" is "much better than the name implies! I should consider it about similar to Stouffer's in New York except for size." We have engaged a private dining room on the second floor where lunch will be served, and for those who so desire drinks may be secured on the first floor.

No formal program of speeches is planned, but R.D. Havens (Johns Hopkins) has agreed to act as Master-of-Ceremonies, and emphasis will be placed on general introductions and conversation. On the very first day of the meetings 18th century enthusiasts--already, as Dick Boys (Mich.) remarks, with something of "a reputation for conviviality"--will have an opportunity here to meet others with similar interests, to renew old friendships, and to make plans for later engagements.

So plan to meet your friends at the luncheon on the 29th. And send in the enclosed reservation card at once, in order that we may have some idea of the number to expect. Remember, anyone really interested in 18th century literature and scholarship will be welcome, since attendance is not limited to members of any particular group.

Note: Please be prompt, so that the luncheon may begin on time.

GROUP VIII PROGRAM

The program for the Group VIII meeting, 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday Dec. 30, includes a paper by Jim Osborn (Yale) on Edmund Malone and literary forgeries; and one by J. R. Moore (Indiana) on 18th century political theory as it affects the literature of the day. R.S. Crane (Chicago) will lead a discussion of this last paper. It is hoped that members will come prepared to enter into the discussion, since much of the value of the meeting will depend upon the active participation of those present.

After the discussion, Phil Gove (N.Y.U.) will comment on the possibility of having a periodical devoted entirely to 18th century scholarship; and reports of committees etc. will be made. At this time, also, your editor hopes that members will feel free to discuss the future of this News Letter -- its aims and possible accomplishments. Let us know what you feel we should do. This first year has been an experiment. Are there changes or improvements we can make?

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GARRICK PROGRAM FOR DRAMA GROUP

All our members will be interested in the program planned for Group XIV, the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 31, celebrating the 200th anniversary of David Garrick's first appearances on the stage. Five short papers are to be given: R.W. Schmelzer (Rensselaer), "Notes on the Physical Stage in England after Garrick's Second Continental Trip"; T.H. Vail Motter (New Haven), "Garrick and the Private Theatres"; W. Van Lennep and D.M. Little (Harvard), "Garrick As Seen in His Letters"; G.W. Stone Jr. (George

Wash.), "Garrick As a Factor in the History of Shakespearean Criticism"; W. F. Eaton (Yale), "Garrick and the Modern Shakespearean Tradition."

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NEWS FROM ENGLAND

R.W.Chapman writes: "I have visited the Johnson House, and can report that the damage is negligible. The Garret, happily, contained no furniture of any value. A temporary roof has been put on by the Trustees, with the help of a contribution to their funds (which had no margin for enemy action) from the Johnson Club."

Johnsonians will be glad to hear that L. F. Powell's index to the five volumes of his edition of Boswell is beginning to take shape. All the preliminary cards have been made and the difficult work of combination and arrangement has been begun.

E. S. de Beer comments on recent publications of English antiquarian and archeological societies: "The shrinkage of publication is becoming more and more marked, though cheap reprints still go well forward. There is far less leisure; and the 9 p.m. wireless news takes a greater part of one's energy." Of conditions in the capital he adds: "The absence of raids is naturally making Londoners very cocky; also all the old land marks are disappearing; the nasty mess at the corner of High Street and the hole in the road in the square near by; and one pub has recently reopened with two stories, instead of the pre-war four."

Of his own research, de Beer writes: "At the moment I have given up work, except for book reviews and oddments, I put in about thirty five hours a week at the Institute of Historical Research -- mainly library work, but also subediting

its Bulletin and History. I am uncertain about the future; it's desirable that the library should be kept in running order even though we have only one or two readers."

F.W. Bateson, recent editor of the Cambridge Bibliography, writes to Jim Osborn that he intends to leave "the lotus land of literary research", for awhile, for another profession. "Like you", he adds, "I mean to go in mainly for dairy farming."

Everyone will be saddened to hear of the recent death in England of Leonard Whibley, the editor of the correspondence of Thomas Gray.

The new edition of Dr. Johnson's poems, edited by D. Nichol Smith and E. L. McAdam, was scheduled to be published in England on October 23. But just when either it or Walter Graham's edition of Addison's Letters will be available in any quantity in this country is not certain.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

René Wellek (Iowa), whose book The Rise of English Literary History has recently appeared, is now planning a continuation which would bring the story down to 1840. He has become an associate editor of the Philological Quarterly.

Because of ill health R. F. Bond has been forced to give up the compilation of the annual 18th century bibliography for the Philological Quarterly, and Arthur Friedman (Chicago) has agreed to take his place.

AUCTION SALES

In the Parke-Bernet sale of Nov. 13 one item of interest to 18th century scholars was sold. This was Thomas Paine's copy of the 1st edition of the Rights of Man, with corrections and additions in his handwriting. Changes, obviously for a new edition, were made to the dedicatory letter "To George Washington", and elsewhere in the text.

In the sales of Nov. 26-27 there were included an autograph poem in the handwriting of Joseph Addison; one of two perfect known copies of the American edition of The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes; an autograph letter of David Hume to Lord Hertford, relative to the repeal of the stamp act; a love letter from Mozart to his future wife; a letter from Samuel Richardson to Lady Echlin, and a presentation copy of Clarissa; and numerous original scores of 18th century composers.

In the sale of the library of the late William H. Woodin, Dec. 2-4, not much of interest to our readers is to be sold. A first edition of The Vicar of Wakefield and extra-illustrated editions of Irving's Life of George Washington (altogether 15 vols. including autographs) and the 1836 Johnsoniana (2 vols. with portraits) are among the valuable books listed.

The interest of collectors in 18th century manuscripts is clearly shown by the high prices paid for some of the items in the recent A. Edward Newton sale. For instance, Mrs. Piozzi's Commonplace Book, kept as an old lady, realized \$650, and one of her letters to Dr. Johnson, \$125.

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ROCHESTER EXHIBITS PIOZZIANA

Through the efforts of Dick Greene and Bob Metzdorf, the Rush Rhees Library of the University of Roch-

ester has arranged a special exhibit of the manuscripts and books of Hester Lynch Piozzi (Mrs. Thrale) (1741-1821). Many of the valuable papers included in the exhibit are from the famous Adam Johnsonian collection now on loan at the library; others are from the permanent collections of the University.

The exhibit was opened on November 2, for a private showing, with a short talk about the lady, followed by tea in the library rooms. It will continue on display until January 1st. Any of our members who may chance to be in the vicinity will certainly find it well worth a visit.

And while we are on the subject of commemorative exhibitions, what may be expected in 1942? What should we celebrate next year in our libraries, and what suggestions do you have for special gatherings of books and papers? Certainly these commemorations are very valuable, not only in stimulating interest in old books and papers, but also in advertising the whereabouts of important collections.

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Your editor cannot refrain occasionally from passing on comments received in recent letters. W. G. Crouch (Pitt.) writes: "I have read each issue of the pamphlet with much interest. It is encouraging to know that scholars in England are going ahead with so many projects in spite of air raids and the interruptions caused by war. It is a real help, also, to know about the various projects which American scholars are undertaking."

And Flora M. Handley (Paducah Junior College) adds that "The News Letter is very welcome mail as it helps me to remember that I am still a research student as well as a corrector of themes."